

Categorical Exclusion

City of Caliente Free Use Permit — Antelope Canyon

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Caliente Field Office
Caliente, NV

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A. Background

BLM Office: Caliente Field Office

LLNVL03000

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: NVN 94265

Proposed Action Title/Type: City of Caliente Free Use Permit — Antelope Canyon

Location of Proposed Action: The project is located along Antelope Canyon Road in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 6, in Township 4 South, Range 67 East of the Mount Diablo Baseline Meridian, Lincoln County, Nevada. The project is proposed within the existing Antelope Canyon Community Pit (NVN 048723).

Description of Proposed Action: The City of Caliente proposes to remove 50 cubic yards of rip-rap (large stone boulders) currently stockpiled along Antelope Canyon Road to be used in maintenance of stream erosion controls along Meadow Valley Wash in Linear Park, Caliente, Nevada. The material is currently stockpiled on site adjacent to the county maintained road. City personnel will use a loader to load dump trucks and haul the material off-site which will take a few days to complete. The free use permit will be issued for one month to allow the city time to prepare the site and remove the material from the BLM in an efficient process. The loader may remain on site during the period of the permit. No new disturbance will be created on public lands as a result of this project. The Ely District standard stipulations for community pits will be applied to this permit.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: August 2008

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

MIN 17: Open to mineral materials — Allow disposal of mineral materials on approximately 9.9 million acres of federal mineral estate, subject to best management practices (See Table 23 and Map 21).

MIN 18: Space mineral material sites appropriately to accommodate public and private needs while preserving environmental qualities.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (F)(10), "Disposal of mineral materials, such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas."

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

I considered:

The proposed mineral material disposal occurs within the existing Antelope Canyon Community Pit (NVN 048723), an area already designated for mineral material disposals using non-mechanized techniques. The use of a loader to remove the material would not cause additional disturbance. These authorized activities are not likely to cause significant impacts, and neither is this project.

D. Approval and Contact Information



Christopher Carlton
Caliente Field Manager

7/22/15
Date

Contact Person

Carissa Shilling
Geologist
Caliente Field Office
1400 S. Front St., PO Box 237
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**Extraordinary Circumstances
Documentation
City of Caliente Free Use Permit — Antelope
Canyon**

**Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
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Caliente, NV**

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CX Number:	DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2015-0028 CX
Date:	July 22, 2015
Lease/Case File/ Serial Number:	NVN 94265
Regulatory Authority (CFR or Law):	43 CFR 3604

The following block would be inside instruction tags and not be printed or visible in the final document

NEPA Guidance: Answers to the Extraordinary Circumstances questions below will affect the level of NEPA required for this project. If any of the extraordinary circumstances are applicable to the action being considered, either an EA or EIS must be prepared for the action.

Section 1.1 Impacts on Public Health and Safety

1. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on public health and safety?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Nick Pay / Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an affect on public health and safety.

Section 1.2 Impacts on Natural Resources or Unique Geographic Characteristics

2. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Harry Konwin / Archaeologist

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an affect on natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

Section 1.3 Level of Controversy

3. Does the proposed action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Nick Pay / Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an affect on highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

Section 1.4 Highly Uncertain or Unique or Unknown Environmental Risks

4. Does the proposed action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Nick Pay / Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an affect on significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Section 1.5 Precedent Setting

5. Does the proposed action establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Nick Pay / Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to establish a precedent.

Section 1.6 Cumulatively Significant Effects

6. Does the proposed action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Nick Pay / Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an cause cumulatively significant, environmental effects.

Section 1.7 Impacts on Cultural Properties

7. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Harry Konwin / Archaeologist

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an affect on sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Section 1.8 Impacts on Federally Listed Species or Critical Habitat

8. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Todd Trapp / Wildlife Biologist

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an affect on threatened or endangered species or their habitat.

Section 1.9 Compliance With Laws

9. Does the proposed action violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elvis Wall / Native American Coordinator

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an affect on Federal , State, local, or tribal laws.

Section 1.10 Environmental Justice

10. Does the proposed action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Nick Pay / Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an adverse effect on low income or minority populations.

Section 1.11 Indian Sacred Sites

11. Does the proposed action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elvis Wall / Native American Coordinator


Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an affect on Native American sacred sites.

Section 1.12 Noxious and Non-Native Invasive Species

12. Does the proposed action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Cameron Boyce / Natural Resource Specialist

Rationale: This project occurs within an existing community pit. The document reviews an alternate removal technique that is not likely to have an affect on noxious or non-native invasive species.

Section 1.2 Preparer Information



Christopher Carlton

7/22/15

DATE

Caliente Field Manager